(2)   the availability of financial aid and other incentives that encourage individuals to pursue nursing education programs, particularly those that focus on the need to address the nursing faculty shortage.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before June 30, 2006, the Maryland Higher Education Commission shall make recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly regarding:

(1)   the need to increase nursing education capacity at higher education institutions in the State; and

(2)   any modifications needed to available financial aid and other incentives to increase the availability of nurses, particularly nurse educators.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three–fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.

Approved May 26, 2005.

CHAPTER 488

(Senate Bill 514)

AN ACT concerning

Optional Retirement Program – Eligibility

FOR the purpose of altering the eligibility provisions for the Optional Retirement Program to include individuals in certain positions designated as exempt by the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland or the Board of Regents of Morgan State University; providing that an individual who was a participant in the Optional Retirement Program as of a certain date may continue to participate in the Program under certain circumstances; providing for the application of this Act; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to eligibility for the Optional Retirement Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
    Article – State Personnel and Pensions
    Section 30–301
    Annotated Code of Maryland
    (2004 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: